

PROCEEDINGS  
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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *PRUNELLA MODULARIS*  
FROM THE PYRENEES.

BY FRANCIS HARPER.

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During a week's collecting in the Pyrenees in April, 1919, the writer secured several examples of the Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella modularis*). These appear, upon examination, to represent an undescribed race, which may be known as follows:

***Prunella modularis mabbotti***,<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Distinguishable at a glance from both *Prunella modularis modularis*, of central Europe, and *P. m. occidentalis*, of the British Isles, by the much grayer, less rufescent coloration of the back and wings (the edgings of the feathers of these parts buffy brown and smoke gray instead of cinnamon-brown, as in the two other forms mentioned).<sup>2</sup>

*Type locality*.—At timber-line (altitude about 1700 meters) on a mountain about three kilometers south of Saillagouse, Dept. of Pyrénées-Orientales, France.

*Type specimen*.—No. 256755, U. S. National Museum; adult male; collected April 24, 1919, by Francis Harper.

*Geographic range*.—Specimens examined only from the Departments of Pyrénées-Orientales and Ariège, France; probably restricted, at least during the breeding season, to the Pyrenees and adjacent parts of southern France and northern Spain.

*Description of type*.—Pileum and nape mouse gray, broadly but very indistinctly streaked with olive-brown; scapulars and interscapulars with broad mesial streaks of black, and edged with buffy brown and smoke gray; rump and upper tail-coverts olive-brown; tail fuscous; wings fuscous, the exposed edges of the feathers buffy brown (paler on the tertials); median and greater coverts slightly tipped with whitish; malar and auricular regions olive-brown, finely streaked with whitish; under parts mouse gray, lighter

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<sup>1</sup>Named for Douglas Clifford Mabbott, an American ornithologist, who fell in the cause of human liberty near Thiaucourt, France, on September 15, 1918.

<sup>2</sup>Colors given herein are those of Ridgway (Color Standards and Color Nomenclature 1912).

on chin, and changing to whitish on middle of belly; sides and flanks washed with buffy brown, and streaked with fuscous.

*Measurements of type.*—Length (skin), 150 mm.; wing, 68.5; tail, 57.5; exposed culmen, 10.5; tarsus, 20.5; middle toe without claw, 14.5.

*Remarks.*—From the available material in the U. S. National Museum selection has been made, for purposes of comparison, of four specimens of *P. m. modularis* from France, Switzerland, and Norway, six specimens of *P. m. occidentalis* from England, and three specimens (in addition to the type) of *P. m. mabbotti* from the Pyrenees. As far as can be judged from this material, the streaks on pileum and nape are much more distinct in *occidentalis* than in *modularis* and *mabbotti*. The sides and flanks in Pyrenean specimens are conspicuously less rufescent than in British and Norwegian specimens, and somewhat less so than in specimens of *modularis* from France and Switzerland. In British specimens the tarsus and middle toe average slightly longer, and the bill slightly stouter, than in specimens of the two races from the Continent.

In form of wing the Pyrenean bird appears somewhat intermediate between *modularis* and *occidentalis*.<sup>1</sup> In the type specimen the second primary is about 2.5 mm. longer than the seventh, while in a paratype from the same locality (No. 256648, U. S. N. M.) the second and seventh primaries are approximately equal. The average difference in length between these primaries in the specimens of *modularis* is about 4 mm., and in the specimens of *occidentalis*, less than 1 mm.

*Prunella modularis mabbotti* appeared to be a rather common and characteristic bird in late April in the belt of pine forest on the intermediate mountain slopes near Saillagouse.

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 4,<sup>2</sup> as follows:

France: Saillagouse, Dept. of Pyrénées-Orientales, 3; l'Hospitalet, Dept. of Ariège, 1.

<sup>1</sup>Cf. Hartert, *British Birds*, III, 1910, 314.

<sup>2</sup>Collection U. S. Nat. Mus.